

# **GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**

## **QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES**

**October 2 – 3, 2017  
Quarterly Meeting**

### **Council Members Present:**

Anna Attla  
Jill Burkert  
John Cannon  
Meghan Clark  
Anthony Cravalho  
Sandra DeHart-Mayor  
Art Delaune  
Don Enoch  
David Fleurant  
Dean Gates  
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus  
Corey Gilmore  
Maureen Harwood  
Alexis Henning  
Elizabeth Joseph  
David Kohler - telephonic  
Margaret Kossler  
Sara Kveum  
Banarsi Lal  
Christian Muntean  
Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich  
Maggie Winston, Chair

### **Council Staff:**

Patrick Reinhart, Executive Director  
Kristin Vandagriff, Planner  
Christie Reinhardt, Program Coordinator II  
Anne Applegate, Program Coordinator II  
Ric Nelson, Program Coordinator I  
Lanny Mommson, Research Analyst III  
Ian Miner, Office Assistant II

CART Provided by Lenny DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting  
Minutes Prepared by Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

**Monday, October 2, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – 1:00 p.m.**

**Chair Winston** welcomed Council members to the meeting. Roll call was taken, guests introduced themselves, and a safety briefing was conducted.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**John Cannon MOVED** to approve the agenda, **SECONDED** by **Don Enoch**. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED** and the agenda was approved as presented.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 2017 MEETING**

**Maureen Harwood MOVED** to approve the May 2017 minutes as presented, **SECONDED** by **Art Delaune**. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

**CHAIR'S REPORT AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

**Chair Winston** reported that this is her first meeting as chair, and she welcomed new members **Christian Muntean, Meghan Clark, and Corey Gilmore**, to the Council. Council members and staff briefly introduced themselves.

**Kristin Vandagriff** reported that she, **Lanny Mommsen, and Mallory Hamilton** attended the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) Conference in Salt Lake City. While they were at the conference, Council staff purchased the movie "Body and Soul," which will be shown during the Juneau Council meeting. Other interesting aspects of the conference included information on supported decision making, cultural linguistic competencies, and sessions on diversity.

**Chair Winston** shared that she, **Kristin Vandagriff, Lucy Odden, and Ric Nelson** attended the Equal Partners Interstate Congress (EPIC) conference in Las Vegas. The conference consisted of break-out sessions and guest speakers, and she stated it was very valuable to get together with their partnership self-advocates from the Northwest states. **Chair Winston** stated that she and **Ric Nelson** had completed five-minute videos on how they became self-advocates, and those were shown at the conference.

**Chair Winston** stated that the Self-Advocate Summit was held this past weekend, and they had approximately 30 self-advocates from all around the state. The summit sessions concentrated on information to help people become good self-advocates.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Patrick Reinhart reported to the Council as follows:

### **Council News**

#### **New Council Chair / Vice Chair**

- **Maggie Winston / Mallory Hamilton**

#### **New Council Members**

- **Meghan Clark** – UAA CHD
- **Christian Muntean** – Parent
- **Corey Gilmore** – Self-advocate

#### **Staffing**

- **Ian Miner** is acting admin, and will be looking to take the position permanently.
- May look for a college intern, MASST volunteer, or DVR work experiences to help out with various projects around the office.

### **Five-Year State Plan**

#### **Council's State Plan Amendment:**

- Submitted to the Administration on Community Living (ACL).
- State Plan booklet coming soon.
- Work plans are being updated.

### **Budget**

- This year's budget is \$1,676 million.
- AIEI grant has been extended for a 6<sup>th</sup> year no-cost extension.
- Applied for two grants recently. Will continue to explore other funding opportunities as they arise.

### **Recent Celebrations**

- 27<sup>th</sup> year celebration of the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Highlight of Becca's Alpacas, a successful Microenterprise program.

### **Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC)**

- Gone to a virtual organization.
- Hired a contractual part-time executive director, John Kern.
- Expanding the board this fall.
- Now a sustainable organization through membership contributions.
- AMC advocacy kept \$1,000,000 in the capital budget for the second year in a row.
- Thanks to the Trust for a transition grant to keep AMC in business.
- Will be holding a membership drive.

### **Continuing or Upcoming Issues**

- Saving Medicaid on a federal level.
- DD Council funding – federal proposal to combine DD Council funding with SILCs and traumatic brain injury boards.
- State budget impacts on services – watch for what is proposed in the Governor’s budget in December.
- FASD Five-Year Plan.
- Transition Handbook finished and distributed.
- Project SEARCH expansion in Juneau and Anchorage.
- Alaska Mental Health Trust:
  - CEO search
  - Trustee search
  - Policies and charters
  - Reports on projects due this month.

### **OTHER NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

No other new business from the floor was offered.

### **EARLY INTERVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Sandra DeHart-Mayor** provided the report for the Early Intervention Committee as follows:

#### **Activities Since May:**

- Chair and staff attended the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Conference and Interstate Coordinating Council (ICC) pre-conference in Washington, D.C.
- New monthly meetings with the State office.
- New quarterly meetings with the Childcare Assistance office.
- State and members attended “Strengthening Families Alaska.”
- Presentation on Wonder Babies, a partnership between infant programs and neonatal intensive care units.
- Presentation on telepractice training.
- Presentation on universal developmental screening.
- Review of response from OSEP on the Annual Performance Report/State Performance Plan (APR/SSP).

### **Universal Developmental Screening Task Force**

A meeting was held in September 2017 with considerable stakeholder involvement. The outcomes of the task force meeting are:

- Branding and outreach.
- Education and Training – physicians, nurses, childcare, child protective services, foster families, and the public.
- Ages & Stages tool at Help Me Grow.

- Centralized data.
- Develop a plan to include screening data in health records.

### **Upcoming Activities**

- Review Family Outcomes Survey
- Review and comment on the APR/SPP
- Fiscal technical assistance
- Childcare webpage
- Task force follow-up.

## **EMPLOYMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**Anna Attla** provided the report for the Employment and Transportation Committee as follows:

### **Recent Activities**

- Finished the Transition Handbook for distribution.
- Presentations of Disability Benefits 101 (DB 101) and Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Accounts.
- Proctored Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) exams in Soldotna.
- Alaska Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM) Conference keynote.
- Project SEARCH site technical assistance visit – Juneau and Anchorage expansion efforts are underway.
- Submitted the Alaska Integrated Employment Initiative (AIEI) 6<sup>th</sup> year, no-cost extension application.
- Planning/co-sponsoring reverse job fair.
- Council has led the #ABLEtoSave campaign for Alaska.
- Designed a mail-out postcard for outreach to thousands of Alaskans who could benefit from ABLE accounts.

### **Upcoming Activities**

- Assist in Project SEARCH expansion.
- Disseminate Transition Handbook.
- Provide resources and partner in two job fairs.
- Help grow Alaska APSE chapter membership.

## **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COMMITTEE**

**Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus** provided the report for the Developmental Disabilities Committee as follows:

### **Recent Activities:**

- Continue to review the I/DD Registry – approximately 711 individuals
- Review Individualized Supports Waiver (ISW) and Community First Choice (CFC) implementation progress.

- Workforce Workgroup initiated to look at employment barriers for family members who are caretakers to individuals with disabilities.
- DD Council amendment to the Five-Year State Plan – submitted August 4, 2017.
- NACDD Conference.
- ACL Living Well grant opportunity. Council led the effort with their partners to apply for this grant with the goal to make the Alaska’s shared DD vision a reality.
- Alaska DD Collaborative: Implementing the shared DD vision through five project areas:
  - Culture change
  - Direct service professional workforce development
  - Legislative engagement
  - Community outreach
  - Measuring progress.
    - Council staff leading two areas and participating in all areas.
    - Council member participation as well.
- Individualized Support Waiver (ISW) Update:
  - For individuals with I/DD.
  - SDS seeking federal approval for ISW to serve 600 individuals.
  - ISW targets – individuals currently on the Community and Developmental Disabilities Grant (CDDG) and individuals without supports on the Developmental Disabilities Registry and Review (DDRR).
  - Go live set for January 1, 2018.
  - Rollout effective September 1, 2017.
  - SDS will draw 100 individuals monthly to reach goal of 600 people.
  - Individuals will have a capped annual budget of \$17,500.
  - Services include the following:
    - Respite
    - In-home supports (under age 18)
    - Supported living (over age 18)
    - Day habilitation
    - Supported employment
    - Intensive active treatment for adults
    - Chore services
    - Non-medical transportation.
- Supported Decision Making (SDM) Update - three-pronged approach to systems change:
  1. Raise awareness
  2. Develop Alaska standards and work plans with stakeholders
  3. Institutional change.
  - Community forum opportunities available.

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**David Kohler** gave the report for the Education Committee as follows:

### **Education Committee Update**

- Spring Leadership Conference on Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan
- OSEP Leadership Conference
- Council for Exceptional Children legislative summit
- Special Education Services Agency (SESA) board
- Deaf Education Board
- State Board of Education.

### **Issues/Actions:**

- Support transition activities, especially in rural Alaska
- Following:
  - Appropriations process for President's Education Budget
  - Federal bill for full funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
  - Effect of President's regulatory reform policies.
- Transition Handbook distribution
- Alaska's Education Challenge
- ESSA State Plan discussions and changes

### **Educating and advocating at the federal level:**

- Met with Senator Murkowski on Medicaid services in schools.
- Letters to the U.S. delegation on both healthcare and education.
- Comments to the U.S. Department of Education on regulatory reforms to IDEA.
- Memo to U.S. senators on post-secondary transitions in the mixed economies of rural Alaska.
- Two visits each with Senators Murkowski and Sullivan in D.C.

### **Educating and advocating at the state level:**

- Letters to DHSS regarding Medicaid.
- Comment on second draft State Plan for ESSA.
- Comment on proposed regulation changes to vocational education.
- Comment on the bill affecting the Alaska Performance Scholarship (SB 103).
- Comment on Alaska's Education Challenge.

### **Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) Update:**

- Proposals for Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference (ASSEC) in February.
- Inclusive Practice Awards call for nominations.
- Legislative session.
- Reporting to the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) on deaf education needs and resources.
- Collaboration with the Arts Council on rural transitions project.
- Supported decision making for IEP teams.
- Advisory panel training on roles, authority, and how to collaborate with DEED.

**David Kohler** and **Anne Applegate** noted the new members that have been added to the Education Committee's roster to fulfill their federal requirements as the SEAP. The only seat

that is currently vacant is a representative from Juvenile Justice.

### **FASD WORKGROUP**

**Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus** gave the report for the FASD Workgroup as follows:

#### **Events:**

- The Council sponsored five people to attend the Whitecrow Village FASD Intensive Workshop.
- FASD Awareness Day, September 9<sup>th</sup> – Unmasking Brain Injury Project mask making event.
- FASD Conference held in Kotzebue on September 9<sup>th</sup> followed by an awareness walk.
- FASD Strategic Planning Session
  - Comprehensive, collaborative statewide Five-Year Plan. Priority areas include:
    - Prevention
    - Screening and diagnosis
    - Early intervention and education
    - Systems transportations for youth and adults
    - Community outreach and education.
  - Next steps: Second meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup>, and continue compiling background information.

**Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus** introduced Hope Finkelstein, the new FASD program coordinator for DHSS. Hope stated that the FASD diagnostic teams that were formerly housed under the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) are now housed under the Office of Substance Misuse and Addiction Prevention (OSMAP) within DHSS.

### **AUTISM AD HOC COMMITTEE**

**Jill Burkert** gave the report for the Autism Ad Hoc Committee as follows:

#### **Activities Since May:**

- Autism ECHO, a collaborative learning community, has been launched.
- Curriculum developed for training providers to diagnose ADHD and autism.
- Alaska now has two pediatric neurodevelopmental physicians.
- Clinic at SouthCentral opening next year.

#### **Applied Behavior Analysis Draft Regulations:**

- Came out August 11.
- Comments due October 11.
- There has been a request for more time.
- Troublesome elements include:
  - Must have tried other interventions first and failed
  - No mention of supervision



- Limited settings
- Low reimbursement rate.

#### **Future Activities:**

- Fall meeting in November
- Second Annual Autism Conference
- OCALICON 2017, the premier autism and disabilities conference
- National Autism Leadership Summit
- The Gould Project
- Focus this next year on adult services.

#### **MEDICAID AD HOC COMMITTEE**

**Dean Gates** gave the report for the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee as follows:

#### **Recent Activities:**

- Healthcare:
  - Follow-up letters and e-mails to Alaska's U.S. congressional delegation.
  - Posted information to the Council's Facebook page and listserv that discussed the impact on Alaskans with disabilities.
- Collaborative letter regarding DD Council funding with the Statewide Independent Living Center (SILC), Disability Law Center of Alaska (DLC), and Center for Human Development (CHD).
- Completed interRAI research.

#### **Cassidy-Graham Amendment Healthcare Bill:**

- Maintains all the key components of the failed Better Care Reconciliation Act including:
  - Establishes a per-capita cap on Medicaid.
  - Ends the Medicaid expansion as we know it.
  - Removes protections for Americans with pre-existing conditions.
  - Allows states to impose burdensome work requirements as a condition of Medicaid coverage.
  - Takes away coverage from millions of Americans.
- In addition, this bill would:
  - Repeal the Medicaid expansion, premium tax credits, and cost-sharing reduction payments in favor of a block grant that cuts existing funding levels.
  - Establish a "health purpose" fund for state governors to allocate without any requirement for consumer protections.
  - Create a funding cliff that eliminates the guarantee of coverage in 2026.

#### **Upcoming Activities:**

- Continued Medicaid research and awareness.
- Continued interRAI discussions and comment.
- Monitor changes to SDS policies, procedures, and forms for the Medicaid program.

## **PEER POWER**

Lucy Odden gave the Peer Power report as follows:

### **Recent Activities:**

- Administrator of the EPIC.
- Participated in and attended the National EPIC Conference
- Hosted the first annual Peer Power Self-Advocacy Summit.

## **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Art Delaune gave the report for the Legislative Committee as follows:

### **Legislation passed into law last year:**

- HB 16 – Disability Training and Identification
- HB 57 and 59 – Budget bills
- HB 159 – Opioid database
- SB 23 – Capital budget
- SB 83 – Protection of vulnerable adults and Long-Term Care Ombudsman

### **Carry-over legislation for the next session and issues to watch:**

- HB 106 – Civil legal services fund
- HB 54 – Voluntary termination of life
- 911 Text capability enhancement
- Senior benefits program sunset
- SB 80 – Alaska Relay Services

### **Ideas for this year's legislative session:**

- Get the DD Shared Vision into statute.
- Supported decision making.
- Consistent ability for unaccompanied youth to consent for mental health services within the school system.
- FAPE responsibilities for students in long-term and short-term behavioral health treatment facilities.
- Customary and traditional subsistence activities and IEP vocational education and transition planning in statute or code.
- Issues related to the Alaska Mental Health Trust's authority related to making income off their lands. Review the legislative audit when it comes out.

### **Federal legislation to review and comment on:**

- Disability Integration Act
- Legislation to amend the ABLE Act

**RECESS**

The business meeting recessed at 4:30 for public testimony.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Public testimony was heard, and a full transcript was prepared. A celebration was held for inclusive playgrounds.

**Tuesday, October 3, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – 8:30 a.m.**

**POTENTIAL CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

**Patrick Reinhart** reviewed minor amendments to the agenda.

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Kristin Vandagriff** presented Council members with a list of all the Council committees, including the recurring meeting schedule and staff member contacts. She asked Council members to review their committee assignments and only sign up for committees they can commit to participating in so committees can ensure reaching a quorum for their meetings.

**Kristin Vandagriff** stated that over the next few months, committees will be drafting their work plans for FY '19 and '20, and those will be submitted to the feds by January 1<sup>st</sup>. She also asked that Council members complete the surveys they will receive, which are an important aspect of the Council's Program Performance Report, which is also due by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Council members and guests introduced themselves.

**DISABILITY LAW CENTER OF ALASKA**

**Dave Fleurant** directed Council members to his written report noting that he is working on a new format to be consistent from meeting to meeting and ensuring it contains information people find useful. He asked Council members to provide feedback on the content.

**Dave Fleurant** highlighted that DLC is offering a public comment period at the end of the week for the public to discuss anything about DLC's services. He also stated that in addition to their service to people with developmental disabilities, DLC also serves people with mental illness and traumatic brain injury, and they have specific grants to focus on topics such as voting rights. In addition to the regular legal work they do, they can also conduct investigation of allegations of neglect and abuse in a community.

**STONE SOUP GROUP**

Alexandra Fogarty stated that Stone Soup Group is an organization that supports parents caring for children with special needs. They are the federally designated Parent Training and Information Center and also the Family-to-Family Health Information Center for Alaska. She shared the following highlights from FY'17:

- Supported and served over 1,200 parents and professionals in 99 communities throughout Alaska.
- Trained over 300 individuals.

- Through their three STAR navigators, Stone Soup Group helped individuals and submitted 136 developmental disability eligibility applications, 93 applications for the DDRR, and a total of 360 people were assisted through the STAR program.
- Stone Soup Group now has four parent navigators in Bethel, Fairbanks, Soldotna, and Prince of Wales.
- Partnered with the Lower Kuskokwim and presented at their special education conference.
- Conducted a parent training in Bethel.
- Guardianship 101 training to be held October 11.
- Training on October 18<sup>th</sup> for building parent support groups in Valdez and Fairbanks. They will also be using the Facebook Live platform to reach a broader audience.
- Annual Santa Party will be held December 9<sup>th</sup>.
- In the planning stages for their annual Parent Conference to be held April 6 – 7. Accepting nominations for the Soupy Awards.
- Now a part of the Mentor Advocate and Power (MAP) program, which is a national peer-to-peer parent support program.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY (SESA)**

Patrick Pillai directed members of the Council to his written report in the binder that highlighted the structure of SESA, how they provide technical assistance to school district staff, service statistics, cost of services, and E-modules.

Patrick Pillai stated that to round out the SESA board, they will need one more member from the Governor's Council to volunteer. His preference would be to have a member representing a rural community. The next SESA board meeting will be December 7 – 8.

Patrick Pillai stated that one of SESA's major challenges right now is recruiting specialists for the autism program and the multiple disabilities program. They currently have two vacancies in the multiple disabilities program, and they could use one more specialist in the autism program.

### **CENTER FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (CHD)**

Karen Ward directed Council members to her written report and stated that the CHD is authorized in the same law as the Council and DLC. They have a broad mission to provide interdisciplinary education; community training and service; technical assistance, research, and evaluation; and information dissemination. She highlighted the following:

#### **Health/Autism Related Projects:**

- LEND – 14 Fellows this year. Two are self-advocates, one in Juneau and one in Homer.
- Piloting an online training for primary healthcare providers on autism and related disorders.
- ECHO Autism will resume for the fall.
- Dr. Siv Fasci is Alaska's new developmental pediatrician. Hoping to have her collaborate on LEND and ECHO Autism programs.

### **Workforce Development:**

- New grant from the Working for Inclusive and Transformative Healthcare (WITH) Foundation called Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in Healthcare.
- CHD has a STEP grant through the Department of Labor to support the training of 36 registered behavior technicians to work under the supervision of Board Certified Behavior Analysts. The training is online and takes about four weeks.
- Alaska Training Cooperative provided approximately 256 trainings with an unduplicated number of 3,700 participants.
- Maintain the Learning Management System, which is a clearinghouse of trainings available.

### **Employment:**

- National Certificate in Employment Services Course started September 11 with 24 participants.
- New grant from the Small Business Administration to provide microenterprise training and technical assistance in one urban and four rural and remote communities with a targeted population of people of Alaska Native heritage living in disadvantaged communities or ex-offenders and other disadvantaged microentrepreneurs.

### **DD COLLABORATIVE**

Kim Champney shared the vision with members of the Council:

*Alaskans share a vision of a flexible system in which each person directs their own supports, based on their strengths and abilities, toward a meaningful life in their home, their job, and their community. Our vision includes supported families, professional staff, and services available throughout the state now and into the future.*

Kim Champney stated that through the process of creating this vision for the DD system, a lot of time was spent reaching out to stakeholders to determine what a meaningful life meant to Alaskan citizens with disabilities. She shared a video on the DD Collaborative and how the work is being organized.

Kim Champney stated that the following project teams have been meeting and have created draft action plans they will be rolling out shortly:

- Person-Directed Culture Change
- DSP Workforce Development
- Community Awareness
- Legislative Engagement
- Measuring Success
- Advocate Advisory.

Kim Champney stated that the Governor's Council will be very involved in this effort, and there are a variety of avenues for others to become involved in the process as well. She directed Council members to her detailed report in the binder as well as the one-page handout for more information.

### **ALASKA ASSOCIATION ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (AADD)**

Lizette Stiehr directed members of the Council to AADD's new brochure, and pointed out that AADD has a very clear mission. She stated that their envisioned future is to work proactively with the State to move the system forward. She shared the goals from their strategic plan as follows:

1. Develop a comprehensive advocacy and communication strategy to maintain sustainability of our system.
2. Expand workforce capacity with the developmental disability system.
3. Increase AADD's sustainability.

Lizette Stiehr stated that AADD has monthly teleconferences on the second Thursday of each month for their 41 members. They also frequently host Hot Topics teleconferences for their members, and the Hot Topics sessions cover a variety of topical subject matter. She encouraged members of the Council to sign up for AADD's listserv to be kept up to date on meetings and information of interest to the Council.

### **STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)**

Heidi Frost stated that like the Council, the SILC is a Governor-appointed board that works with the Independent Living Centers, and they create the Three-Year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). Recent activities of the SILC include:

- There are currently five vacancies on the SILC, and they are working with Boards and Commissions to fill those seats according to the SILC's federal requirements.
- The SILC is working with a consultant to create a plan for further development as a 501(c)(3).
- The SILC is working on such issues as voting rights and polling accessibility, emergency preparedness, deinstitutionalization, and youth transition.

### **ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY**

Steve Williams began his presentation by discussing the budget process, noting that the Trustees approved their FY'19 budget recommendations in September. The budget process is a lengthy endeavor that involves the Trust's many partners, and the budget was passed approximately 95 percent intact from what had been approved in the previous year's two-year budgeting process. The major components of the budget still reflect the priorities or initiative the Trustees have set which include the implementation of Medicaid reform and redesign and the criminal justice reform efforts, as well as the Trust's focus areas of housing and long-term support services, workforce, disability justice, beneficiary employment and engagement, and substance abuse prevention and treatment.

Steve Williams stated that another effort that has been going on since May has been to explore the organizational structure and create a governance format for the Trustees, the Trust Authority,

and the Trust Land Office. The Trustees also examined their current set of bylaws. One of the outcomes of these efforts is the formal adoption of a new organizational chart directing the Trust Authority and the Land Office to a central CEO that then reports to the Trustees. The two arms of the Trust would then have executive directors that report to the CEO.

Steve Williams reported that the Trustees have a draft revision of the bylaws that will most likely be adopted October 27<sup>th</sup>. Another aspect of change to the governance of the Trust is that the Trustees have adopted charters to allow the bylaws to be more generalized documents while the charters are to act more as policies within the structure of the organization. The charters are in the process of being finalized.

Steve Williams shared staffing and other changes with the Trust as follows:

- Interim CEO Greg Jones retired in August, Steve Williams is currently acting CEO.
- Executive director of the Trust Land Office, John Morrison, resigned in September. Wyn Menefee is currently acting ED of the Land Office.
- Jimael Johnson and Kelda Barstad will be coming on as new program officers.
- Andy Stemp is the new CFO.
- The selection of the new CEO will be announced shortly.
- There have been approximately 20 applications for the two vacant Trustee seats, and the nomination panel will be reviewing those applications to determine which names to forward to the Governor and then the legislature for confirmation.

### **DIVISION OF SENIOR AND DISABILITIES SERVICES (SDS)**

Duane Mayes presented on the current activities of SDS as follows:

#### **Individualized Supports Waiver (ISW)**

In the process of exploring options during the Medicaid reform efforts, SDS and its contractors reviewed the 1915(i) State Plan Option. Recognizing that this option would increase costs to the State, SDS has moved forward instead with a 1915(c) Individualized Supports Waiver to be implemented in January 2018.

The ISW will be a capped waiver at \$17,500 and has services similar to the 1915(c) I/DD waiver. All of the individuals that are currently receiving the Community Developmental Disabilities Grants (CDDG) will be included in this program. \$500,000 has been set aside in grants to assist those individuals who do not meet eligibility for this waiver.

The regulations have been drafted, and the State Plan amendment needs to be completed.

#### **Community First Choice (CFC)**

SDS continues to move forward with the implementation of the CFC to capture the additional six percent federal match for personal care services. The Inclusive Community Choices Council is the council created to oversee the implementation of this program. CFC is expected to go live in



January 2018. The regulations have been drafted and the State Plan amendment needs to be completed.

### **interRAI**

SDS has been reviewing the interRAI internally and externally as a tool to eventually replace the Consumer Assessment Tool. SDS has received funding from the Trust to fund the cost of implementing this eligibility determination tool.

### **Day Habilitation**

Based on the comments received by SDS during the public comment process, the original proposal to soft cap day habilitation to 8 hours per week was adjusted to 624 hours per year (or roughly 12 hours per week). Any requests for additional hours are the exception to this rule and will be awarded on a case-by-case basis through the plan of care process. The soft cap has been put in place and will be reviewed in a year to assess the results of the reduction.

### **Infant Learning Program**

A major aspect of the transition of the Infant Learning Program to SDS was to ensure that they address fiscal sustainability. They have put a lot of resources into cleaning up how the money was distributed to programs, and they have been working to roll out Medicaid Administrative Planning. SDS has been preparing for fiscal monitoring by OSEP in November, and they have also been working to ensure continued progress on their State Systemic Improvement Plan.

### **Data Management System - Harmony**

SDS has been working extensively to implement Harmony, the new data management system. They are expecting to go live with Harmony also in January 2018 along with the rollout of the ISW and CFC.

### **Technology Workgroup**

SDS was directed to reduce the Home and Community-Based Services waiver program by \$26 million, and as a result created an External Workgroup of outside entities and key State staff to identify reductions. One of the recommendations is to implement enabling technology in the categories of assistive technology, home telehealth monitoring, and medication management. They will be approaching the Trust to get \$200,000 in funding to jumpstart a pilot project whereby \$10,000 will be awarded to individuals on the waiver that apply for this technology. The data will be measured at the sixth month period and hopefully will show a cost savings.

### **Environmental Modifications – E-mods**

SDS is trying to address e-mods in rural Alaska because the difficulty has been in finding contractors to perform the work. The capped amount that can be expended on an e-mod is \$18,500, which includes the cost of shipping materials. Out-of-the-box thinking has to occur to

begin to address this issue, and the Governor's Council is invited to participate in a process to brainstorm solutions.

### **WOMEN'S CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY HEALTH (WCFH)**

Rebekah Morisse and Jimael Johnson presented to the Council on WCFH on the following project areas:

#### **Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN)**

A 2016 – 2021 Alaska State Plan for CYSHCN was developed to prioritize and guide systems planning to improve the system of care for children with special health care needs. Through broad stakeholder engagement, WCFH has led planning and strategies to address systems gaps. The following six domains were priorities of Alaskan families and stakeholders:

- Screening, assessment, and referral – Governor's Council leading effort with the Universal Screening Task Force
- Access to care
- Patient-centered medical home
- Community-based services and supports
- Family professional partnerships
- Transitions to adulthood.

#### **Family Engagement**

WCFH is working to more effectively honor the time and substantial contributions of parents and family members who help develop and support maternal child health programs. They are currently developing an MOA with Stone Soup Group to provide honoraria to parents who offer their time and expertise within a variety of venues.

#### **Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) and HelpMeGrow**

The federal ECCS initiative is focused on improving developmental skills of three-year-olds in three place-based communities. Alaska has selected Norton Sound, Mat-Su, and Kodiak Island. The communities get to use the collective impact model to drive the work and focus on the areas that are of most concern to their population.

HelpMeGrow is a system that connects children with the services they need. The All Alaska Pediatric Partnership and thread are currently contracted to implement the four core components of the HelpMeGrow national model, which include:

- Provider outreach
- Community outreach
- Centralized access point (call center)
- Data collection and analysis.

The three ECCS communities will be the launching point for HelpMeGrow in Alaska, and then it will go statewide quickly after that. The call center should be available to those communities by January 2018.

### **Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV)**

WCFH continues to administer the federal MIECHV grant for the state of Alaska. The services for this program are provided in Anchorage and the Mat-Su Borough by utilizing the Nurse-Family Partnership model of home visiting. There are currently 141 families enrolled in the program with the capacity to serve up to 200. WCFH is collaborating with Washington, Oregon, and Idaho on a Home Visiting Innovation grant to support the professional development of home visitors throughout the state of Alaska.

The Department of Education and Early Development had funded Parents as Teachers grantees, and they are now moving to WCFH. One of the big goals is to help the sustainability of those programs by looking at outcome measures amongst the different programs that can be used to further advocate for their continuation.

### **Autism/Neurodevelopmental**

WCFH continues to contract with CHD to coordinate the autism/neurodevelopmental outreach clinic. WCFH also provided funding and support for UMass online curriculum that will enhance the capacity of primary care providers to diagnose and care for children with autism. They also continue to be a funding and support source for Autism ECHO.

### **4P's Plus**

4P's Plus is an evidence-based screening tool designed to detect alcohol and other harmful substance use among pregnant women. Sherrell Holtshouser, in collaboration with DBH and OSMAP, implemented a project aimed at primary prevention of FASD and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. 4P's Plus partners include Fairbanks Memorial, Alaska Regional, Bartlett, and Mat-Su Regional, and staff began screening pregnant women for the use of alcohol, opioids, and other harmful substances. Also part of this project is looking at pregnancy planning and long-acting reversible contraception.

### **DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (DVR)**

**John Cannon** presented to the Council on the following aspects of DVR as follows:

#### **Client Outcomes for the Last Fiscal Year:**

- Served 3,417 individuals.
- Of those, 1,558 new individuals applied for service.
- 95 percent of service recipients are considered significantly disabled (have multiple barriers to employment).
- 484 individuals exited the program employed.

- The average wage earned was about \$15.25 per hour.
- Of those who exited the program employed, 395 were employed in the private sector; 65 in federal, state, or local government; and 24 were self-employed.
- Occupations of DVR recipients:
  - 58% service
  - 15% professional, paraprofessional, or technical
  - 15% clerical and administrative support
  - 5% health related
  - 4% construction
  - 3% sales.
- Disability type of DVR participants:
  - 42% psychosocial
  - 28% physical and orthopedic
  - 22% cognitive
  - 3% experience deafness or hearing loss
  - 3% blindness
  - 2% with communication challenges.

### **Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)**

With the passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act, DVR was required to set aside 15 percent of their funds for youth for Pre-ETS. The Pre-ETS program is for students 14 to 21 years of age. This year 846 students were served as compared to approximately 243 students in FY'16. Services were provided to students from over a hundred communities around Alaska through a variety of different projects including Jobz Clubs. Alaska's Pre-ETS program has been recognized by the national technical assistance center WINTAC.

### **Subminimum Wage Regulation Repeal**

Last year the Council showed the film "Bottom Dollars," and over the subsequent months, an effort was enacted to eliminate subminimum wage in Alaska. The concept has been vetted through the Department of Law, the regulation change has been started, and public comment has been announced. There are currently six entities in Alaska that have 14C certificates issued by the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division, and of the six certificate holders, four no longer pay subminimum wage. A fifth has committed to discontinuing the practice, and the sixth is being encouraged to modify their business practices. Council members and the general public are encouraged to provide comment on the regulation changes.

### **Other:**

**John Cannon** thanked the Council and DVR's many partners on employment projects such as Project SEARCH, the Transition Handbook, and the Disability Employment Initiative.

**John Cannon** also commented about the DVR office in Eagle River closing as a result of the Job Center closure. He noted that DVR continues to serve the area on an itinerant basis from the

DeBarr office in Anchorage. They are currently working to secure a workspace for the DVR counselor to serve the Eagle River area so she does not have to rely on the public library for space.

- SVRC is holding their meeting October 23 – 24 via teleconference
- Alaska Workforce Investment Board will be meeting October 25<sup>th</sup> via teleconference.

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT (DEED)**

Commissioner Michael Johnson expressed his appreciation for being invited to attend the Council meeting, and he shared that his education into disability services is greatly enhanced by his interactions with the Council and its staff. He also recognized **Anne Applegate** for visiting with him and attending the last State Board of Education meeting, and **Don Enoch** for his continued support.

In terms of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Commissioner Johnson stated that Alaska submitted their plan in September 2017, and he noted that the document itself is a very broad, general document. What they hope is that the plan leaves the door open for local plans to do what is best for those individual communities. The ESSA plan that was submitted can still be revised. They have not yet received comments back from the feds on the components of the submitted plan. He noted that the Council should keep an eye out for the local plans that will be developed over the course of the next year.

Commissioner Johnson stated that the final meeting of the Alaska Education Challenge will be the day after this Council meeting to share the final recommendations. The next day the State Board of Education will meet to review those recommendations and start formulating a plan to submit to the Governor and the legislature.

Commissioner Johnson then engaged in a Q&A session with members of the Council.

### **WORKING INTERDISCIPLINARY NETWORKS OF GUARDIANSHIP STAKEHOLDERS (WINGS)**

Lisa Wawrzonek and Stacy Martz presented to the Council on WINGS, which is a way to improve the guardianship and conservatorship system in the state. The funding for this project comes from the American Bar Association, and Alaska is also working through a national WINGS program. The protocol of WINGS is to have a steering committee of entities that know guardianship well, know the WINGS purpose well, and can put together a strategic plan while keeping the public informed. The steering committee is comprised of Adult Protective Services, Governor's Council, Disability Law Center of Alaska, Office of Public Advocacy and many other partners. The stakeholder committee will be further broken down into a variety of committees to work on the first phase of projects. The committees chosen thus far include Alternatives to Guardianship, Court Systems, Monitoring of Existing Guardianships, and Education.

Lisa Wawrzonek stated that they have been conducting statewide forums, and they will be

launching a survey this month for anyone unable to attend a forum. Input gained by the forums and survey will be utilized by the various committees once common themes have been identified.

### **DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

Randall Burns presented to the Council on the 1115 Behavioral Health Demonstration Waiver as follows:

#### **Alaska 1115 Waiver Highlights:**

- Target populations and services under the waiver have been identified and are being refined.
- The project must demonstrate cost neutrality to the state.
- Must be clear in the waiver application that Alaska is seeking authority to introduce Medicaid services and options that are not otherwise available under existing CMS rules or Alaska's own State Medicaid Plan.
- DBH and its contractor Milliman have been working to determine the cost and potential utilization of each new service in each of the nine identified regions in Alaska.

#### **Medicaid Eligibility Groups:**

- Medicaid child/Denali KidCare, TEFRA.
- Medicaid adult
- Medicaid expansion adult
- Pregnant women
- Parent/caretaker relatives with a dependent child under age 19
- Aged, blind, and disabled
- Dual eligible (Medicaid and Medicare 64 and under)
- Children in state custody
- Former foster care children
- I/DD (c) waiver population with co-occurring disorders that exceed the capacity of either the HCBS or local behavioral health programs.

#### **New Services:**

The new service benefits are designed to decrease use of inpatient hospital, hospital emergency room, and residential services by conducting universal screenings; intervening early when symptoms are first identified; utilizing sub-acute care, community based step-up/step-down clinical services as alternatives to residential and inpatient services; and developing community-based supports at the region or regional hub level to maintain recovery, health, and wellness.

- Prevention/engagement services – SUD and MH evidence-based screenings.
- Outpatient intervention services – Medication-Assisted Treatment care coordination and treatment.
- Intensive, community-based intervention services:
  - Assertive community treatment
  - Home-based family treatment

- Intensive case management
- Mental health partial hospitalization
- SUD intensive outpatient services.
- Acute residential services – crisis residential/stabilization
- Acute intensive community-based services
- Community and recovery support services.

Randall Burns explained that they have identified nine regions in the state, and at a minimum, all of the services they are putting in the waiver would have to be available in these nine regions.

Randall Burns stated that they are currently in the process of drafting the application and will have it out for public comment in December. They will file the final draft with CMS in January, and then negotiations with CMS will begin.

### **FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Patrick Reinhart** and Council members announced the following:

- Doodle poll to members of the Legislative Committee to determine a recurring date and time for Legislative Committee meetings.
- They just received notice from the Administration on Community Living that Alaska did not receive the Living Well grant.
- SDS is having a forum October 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 on the changes to long-term care services.
- Staff will follow up with Council members on this meeting's format for feedback.
- Deaf Education Board meeting will be held in November.
- Written public comment needs to be sent to DVR regarding regulation changes.
- The next Council meeting is January 30 – February 1<sup>st</sup> in Juneau.

### **ADJOURN**

**Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by **Anna Attla**. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.